

UNTITLED VLADIMIR CAAMAÑO

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COLD OPEN

INT. HOME DEPOT - MORNING

(VLAD, JULIO, HOME DEPOT EMPLOYEE)

VLAD (LATE 20'S) IS AT THE CHECK OUT. HIS CART IS FILLED WITH BOXES OF BLACK TRASH BAGS. HE LOOKS AROUND, CONCERNED.

VLAD

Yo, Pop! (TO EMPLOYEE) Excuse me, have you seen a old Dominican man wearing a "Kiss Me I'm Irish" shirt?

JULIO (O.S.)

Blah!

DOWN THE AISLE, VLAD'S DAD, **JULIO** (50'S), WAVES. HE CAN'T PRONOUNCE HIS OWN SON'S NAME (FROM VLAD'S ACT, PLEASE WATCH).

VLAD

Never mind, found him.

BORN AND RAISED IN THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC, JULIO IS OLD-SCHOOL, AND BELIEVES IN PRACTICALITY ABOVE ALL ELSE. SURE ENOUGH, HE'S WEARING A "KISS ME I'M IRISH" SHIRT (HE LIKES SHIRTS WITH CATCH PHRASES ON THEM), JEANS AND WORK BOOTS, AND HE HAS A HUGE SET OF KEYS HANGING FROM HIS BELT. **NOTE:** JULIO OFTEN SEARCHES FOR THE WORDS WHEN USING ENGLISH.

JULIO

Blah! Ven aca Coño, Blah!

HOME DEPOT EMPLOYEE

Is he calling you "Blah"?

VLAD

He's trying to say "Vlad." It comes out "Blah" because of the accent. Short for Vladimir, after Vladimir Lenin, the communist dictator? You look confused.

(MORE)

VLAD (CONT'D)

When my dad was a child, the United States occupied the Dominican Republic so he gave me a communist name. It's a story we've all heard before.

HOME DEPOT EMPLOYEE

(LONG BEAT, THEN) Cool...

JULIO

(HOLDS DRILL) Blah, look at this. Tremenda machina. Blah!!

VLAD

Pop, why do you yell my name like it's an emergency? You sound like a Dominican car alarm. (IMITATES) *Blah! Ven aca coñio! Blah!*

JULIO

(RE: SAW) And Mira, look at this saw. (SMELLS IT, IN HEAVEN) Delicioso.

VLAD

Don't smell the saw. (THEN) He's a building super, so to him this is like a strip club. (JULIO CARESSES SAW) Pop, same rules as the club, you can look but no touching.

JULIO

(PUTS SAW BACK) Okay, okay, ta bien... But I like it.

HOME DEPOT EMPLOYEE

(RE: CART) Will this be all?

JULIO

Si. Only five-hundred garbage bags.

HOME DEPOT EMPLOYEE

Eighty-one seventy-five.

JULIO

(RE: VLAD) He takes care of the money.

VLAD

(PAYS) My dad feels the black garbage bag is the most versatile item in the world.

JULIO

Ase de to! It is a rain coat, it is a curtain, it's a tinted window... it is a friend.

VLAD

When I was twelve it was my Halloween costume. He cut two eye holes in one and pulled it over my head. I looked like a confused Klan member.

JULIO

You were the Dark Knight!

CUT TO:

COLD OPENINT. JULIO'S BASEMENT APARTMENT - LATER THAT MORNING

(VLAD, JULIO)

JULIO AND VLAD ENTER WITH HOME DEPOT BAGS. THE APARTMENT OCCUPIES THE BASEMENT OF THIS BRONX APARTMENT BUILDING. JULIO HAS PERSONALLY CONVERTED IT TO ACCOMMODATE HIMSELF AND HIS TWO SONS. JULIO IS THE BUILDING SUPERINTENDANT WHICH, ALONG WITH HIS FAMILY, IS HIS PASSION IN LIFE.

VLAD

Okay, Pop, let's settle up for the week. Let's see... (PULLS OUT RECEIPTS) You owe me... Eighty-one for Home Depot, plus one-sixty for your insurance and cable, so two-hundred forty-one dollars.

JULIO MOVES TO THE WALL THEN GIVES VLAD A LOOK.

JULIO

Don't look over here.

KNOWING THE ROUTINE, VLAD TURNS HIS BACK. JULIO USES A DRILL TO REMOVE SOME SHEETROCK THAT'S SECURED WITH A SCREW.

VLAD

Unbelievable. (OVER DRILL) YOU KNOW I KNOW WHERE YOU KEEP YOUR MONEY, RIGHT? (JULIO FINISHES DRILLING) I don't like it that you hide cash all over this place. It's in the walls, underneath the bed, inside the cabinets...

JULIO PULLS OUT A COFFEE TIN FROM THE WALL.

JULIO

Where do you hide your money, Capitan?

VLAD

I don't hide it anywhere, I keep it in
a bank.

JULIO

(CHUCKLES) Good luck with that.

(REMOVES CASH FROM COFFEE TIN) Two-
hundred forty-five dollars.

VLAD

Pop, it was only two forty-one.

JULIO

I know. (WINKS) Four dollars for you.

Go have fun.

JULIO GIVES AN ANNOYED VLAD A KISS ON THE FOREHEAD.

END OF COLD OPEN

ACT ONE

SCENE A

INT. JULIO'S BASEMENT APARTMENT - MORNING

(VLAD, JULIO, ANDREA, FRANKIE)

VLAD IS ON LAPTOP. JULIO ANSWERS CELL (BECAUSE HE'S A SUPER, IT RINGS CONSTANTLY), AND DEALS WITH A COMPLAINING TENANT.

JULIO

Okay, give me five minute. Five
minute... (SHE COMPLAINS) Okay, Mira,
it's gonna be ten minute now.

HE TRIES TO HANG UP HIS CELL BY PRESSING IT HARD, REPEATEDLY.

VLAD

Watch me, Dad. To hang up, you lightly
tap it. (HANGS UP WITH TAP) Tap.

JULIO

(DISMISSIVE NOISE) Ehh. 2-D needs us.

VLAD

By 2-D, you mean Charlene?

JULIO

No, Blah. You gotta keep it
professional. She is 2-D. Entiende?

VLAD

Alright, Charlene is 2-D.

JULIO

Si, (RE: WATCH) we'll give it ten
minute then we fix el toilet de 2-D.

JULIO SITS DOWN. VLAD LOOKS AT HIS LAPTOP:

VLAD

I'm just making sure your union dues are paid. Pop, you know I love working with you, but you think I enjoy doing all your errands, paying all your bills, then having you pay me back?

JULIO

(AS IF IT'S OBVIOUS) Yeah.

VLAD

(LAUGHS) I do a little. But I got a surprise for you. I'm getting you a bank account and a debit card.

JULIO

That is the worst surprise.

THE TOP LOCK ON THE DOOR **SNAPS** OPEN. JULIO HAS A RIDICULOUS NUMBER OF LOCKS BECAUSE HE'S PARANOID.

JULIO (CONT'D)

Look, your mother hates this idea.

VLAD

The locks do open fast when she's angry.

THE LOCKS OPEN FAST. **ANDREA** (50'S), VLAD'S MOM, ENTERS. SHE'S HIGH-ENERGY AND LOVES EVERYTHING ABOUT THE U.S.

ANDREA

Am I not a good mother? Did I not keep you alive in a dangerous neighborhood? Who used her Medicaid to get you braces?

VLAD

You did, Ma.

ANDREA

Smile for me. Dame ver? (RE: HIS
TEETH) Que dentura! (HE DOES)

VLAD

Mom, are you mad at me or Frankie?

ANDREA

Frankie. Your brother was supposed to
pick me up this morning. I deserve to
be picked up. FRANKIE!

FRANKIE (30), VLAD'S BROTHER, EXITS HIS ROOM IN A SILK ROBE.
HE IS A CONFIDENT, HANDSOME, WELL-BUILT SALSA INSTRUCTOR. "*MI
AMORE*" BY COLOR ME BADD BLARES FROM HIS ROOM.

VLAD

Dude, is that Color Me Badd?

FRANKIE

Obviously. I'll turn it off. (WITH
PHONE) Watch, Pop, you lightly tap.

FRANKIE TAPS HIS PHONE AND THE MUSIC GOES OFF.

JULIO

(DISMISSIVE NOISE) Ehh. Frankie, why
didn't you pick up your mother?

A BEAUTIFUL GIRL, **MARIA**, ENTERS FROM FRANKIE'S ROOM. AS
FRANKIE MOVES TO MARIA:

VLAD

That answers that. Mom, you gonna let
him off the hook now, like always?

SHE LOOKS AT FRANKIE, DREAMY, ADORING HIM IN A MOTHERLY WAY:

ANDREA

Frankie's so beautiful. Que pollo.

FRANKIE

Ah, it's nothing. I keep a good diet,
work out a bit. Anybody can do it.

VLAD

Must be nice being the first born.

FRANKIE

Right place, right time, Big Chief.

MARIA

You want to grab some breakfast?

FRANKIE

Nah, I'm good. You go enjoy yourself.
I'll give you a ring later. Vlad, do
me a favor. Take a pic for Instagram.
Hashtag it "Morning after."
Sweetheart, I'll tag you in it.

FRANKIE LEADS HER OUT, GIVES HER A QUICK KISS, SHE KISSES HIM
BACK. HE CLOSES THE DOOR.

ANDREA

Which girl was that?

FRANKIE

Mom, in the grand scheme of things,
does it really matter?

ANDREA

(SINCERE) She's so lucky.

VLAD

Frank, can you close your robe?

FRANKIE

Sorry, I gotta let the body breathe.

ANDREA

Why do you care, Vlad? You and Frankie used to take baths together... With your dad (SHOWS PICTURE FROM FRIDGE).

FRANKIE

This is brutal. Why we gotta keep naked baby photos on the fridge?

VLAD

Come on, you know the fridge is the immigrant family Facebook.

ANDREA

Frankie, it'd be nice to see you settle down.

FRANKIE

So I can end up like you two? Married, but not even living together?

ANDREA

Your father and I are happily married because we don't live together.

JULIO

Very happily married (THEY KISS).
Diablo, she's still got it. She give it to me very good.

ANDREA

You know how hard it is to get subsidized housing? Ask anyone in the Bronx. I got it, I had to take it.

JULIO

Very good deal. E lo mejor que abia.

VLAD

Mom, Frankie - seriously, close your robe - I'm glad you guys are here. I want to get Dad a bank card. He hides his money all over the house. I saw him stuff cash in an encyclopedia.

FRANKIE

It's in Volume D for dinero.

JULIO

Blah, pero ven aca, you and your banks. You're so in love with anything American, Mr. United States, Mr. Pancake, Mr. Ford Focus.

VLAD

(TO FRANK) Did he just call me a car?

JULIO WALKS TO A PAINTING OF GENERAL FRANCISCO CAAMAÑO (VLAD'S REAL-LIFE COUSIN WHO DIED FIGHTING FOR DOMINICAN INDEPENDENCE). FRANKIE IS NAMED AFTER HIM.

JULIO

My cousin died fighting for Dominican independence against United States occupation.

JULIO (CONT'D)

You wanna talk banks, you talk to him.

VLAD

I still gotta talk to The General?

FRANKIE

The guy took a bullet, Bro. What are you gonna do?

VLAD

Pop, I just think you'd enjoy being a little more self-sufficient.

JULIO

(TO ANDREA) Que eso? (STRUGGLES TO PRONOUNCE) Self... suff... suffick...

ANDREA

(DOESN'T KNOW) Yo no se que eso es.

THEY GO BACK AND FORTH IN SPANISH TRYING TO FIGURE IT OUT UNTIL VLAD CLAPS.

VLAD

Guys, hey. Self-sufficient, it means you can take care of yourself. (BEAT) Pop, it's a good thing. Imagine you're at the checkout, and instead of cash, you pull out your card. And everyone's looking. How do you feel?

JULIO

(PUFFS UP CHEST, POWERFUL) I feel like a big guy. I like it.

FRANKIE

(SLOW CLAPS) You're a legend, Dad.
Legend.

JULIO

Okay, tambien, when can we go?

VLAD

We gotta do some work with Joseph and
Rosie, then we'll go right after.

JULIO

Perfecto.

JULIO EXITS.

ANDREA

So, the bank card, the account, why?
Digame que tu pensado?

VLAD

I think Dad will like being able to
take care of his own business.

ANDREA

He won't. What else?

VLAD

(BEAT) Rosie offered me a job.

FRANKIE

Prime time, that's how you do it,
Baby. Come here (THEY HUG).

VLAD

(STILL IN HUG) I don't love robe hugs.
(SEPARATES) It's an I.T. gig.

ANDREA

(PROUD) Ay mi Vladito. That's what you studied in college!

FRANKIE

But, Ma, let's be real here. Dad paid for college, he loves having Vlad be his right hand man.

ANDREA

Yeah, your father will hate this. But I'm still so proud.

SHE KISSES VLAD ON THE HEAD, MUCH LIKE JULIO DID IN THE PREVIOUS SCENE.

FRANKIE

If you guys are going to the bank, say hi to Delilah for me.

FRANKIE WILL ONLY BRAG WHEN PROVOKED, WHICH VLAD IS WELL AWARE OF. VLAD ROLLS HIS EYES, BEAT, THEN:

VLAD

Who's Delilah?

FRANKIE

(CHUCKLES) She's nobody. She's one of the managers, no big thing. She's also one of the thoroughbreds from my salsa class. We had a rendezvous Tuesday. What a night.

ANDREA

She's so lucky.

CUT TO:

ACT ONESCENE BINT. EMPTY APARTMENT UNIT - DAY

(VLAD, JULIO, ROSIE, JOSEPH, JEROME)

VLAD AND JULIO ARE IN AN EMPTY, BUT NICE APARTMENT. JULIO FINISHES TAPING A BLACK GARBAGE BAG OVER ONE OF THE WINDOWS.

VLAD

Nice temporary window, Pop.

JULIO

Our basement; es mejor. Who'd want to live up here?

VLAD

Yeah, with all the windows and light.

JULIO

Hey, we get more space and free rent.

(THRUSTS HIPS) Pow!

JOSEPH (50'S), OWNS BUILDING, AND DAUGHTER, **ROSIE** (28) ENTER. JULIO HAS WORKED FOR JOSEPH FOR YEARS; THEY'RE FAMILY. ROSIE RUNS HER DAD'S BUSINESS. SHE'S ATTRACTIVE AND HAS A STRENGTH THAT VLAD FINDS BOTH INSPIRING (WHEN DIRECTED ELSEWHERE) AND INTIMIDATING (WHEN DIRECTED AT HIM). VLAD'S CRAZY ABOUT HER, BUT THEY'VE BEEN BUDDIES SINCE THEY WERE KIDS.

JOSEPH

Julio, my friend.

JULIO

Joseph.

JOSEPH

Julio.

JULIO

(EMOTIONAL) Joseph.

THEY EMBRACE, WAY TOO LONG.

ROSIE

Why do they always hug like they just got back from war?

VLAD

It's an immigrant thing, they're just happy to be here. (RE: HUG, OPENS ARMS TO ROSIE) Should we, uh...?

ROSIE

No. Stop joking around.

VLAD

You know how I joke.

ROSIE

My dad and I want you guys to turn this into a two bedroom.

VLAD

You won't raise the rent, will you? This whole neighborhood's getting gentrified. Dogs are getting smaller. Yesterday, I saw a poodle in a purse. That doesn't belong in the Bronx.

ROSIE

Tell me about it. I heard some kid call the South Bronx, "Sobro."

VLAD

Goddamn hipsters.

ROSIE

I'm a Bronx girl, too.

ROSIE (CONT'D)

My dad and I are committed to affordable housing and making sure pit bulls are always welcome in our buildings. (THEN) So, you got an answer for me about the job?

PANICKED, VLAD DROPS A TOOL.

JULIO

Que? What job?

VLAD

(BEAT, THEN COVERS) This job right here. Rosie, we can convert this into a two bedroom, no problem.

JOSEPH

How fast can you have it done? A vacant apartment is money lost.

JULIO

Okay mira, no problem. Come over here.

JULIO GESTURES TO THE WALL, USING HIS HAND TO DESCRIBE THE PROCESS, MOSTLY WITH NUMBERS AND RANDOM SOUNDS.

JULIO (CONT'D)

I come over here, one, two, three. I put it inside, over here, *choo*, come over here, *chow*. Four, five, seven, eight, you put it inside, *pow*. Come over here, *chow*. One plus one is three, you put it inside, *chow*. And then, and then, you have two bedrooms.

JOSEPH COCKS HIS HEAD, CONFUSED.

VLAD

Joe, I'll translate later.

JEROME (30'S), A BLACK TENANT FROM 5-J, POKES HIS HEAD IN.

JEROME

Yo, Supe. Vladdie-crack.

VLAD

What's up, Jerome?

JULIO

(BOTHERED) Coño, 5-J.

ROSIE

(TO VLAD) Did he just call him 5-J?

VLAD

He keeps it professional.

JEROME

Yo, Tito Puente. My hot water isn't working.

JULIO

5-J tu siempre me da problemas.

(MIMICS JEROME) Hot water, hot water.

JEROME

I have a date coming over and she wants to take a bath with me. I bought bath salts, Supe... BATH SALTS!

JEROME SHOWS JULIO AND VLAD THE BATH SALTS. JULIO SIGHS:

JULIO

Blah can come by later and fix your hot water, 5-J. Blah, you got it?

VLAD

I'm on it, Pop.

JULIO

I don't like 5-J, pero we gotta do the job for him and his bath salt.

VLAD

I can handle fixing a bath so Jerome can get weird with his girl, tonight.

JEROME

Appreciate ya.

VLAD

(TRYING TO FLIRT) Hey, Rosie, what's your take on bath salts?

ROSIE

I don't ever think about them.

VLAD

Yeah, me neither. No salts. (UNDER BREATH, TRIES TO BE SMOOTH) I'm more of pepper guy, keep it spicy, right?

ROSIE

(WASN'T PAYING ATTENTION) What?

VLAD

Nothin'.

CUT TO:

ACT ONE

SCENE C

INT. JULIO'S BASEMENT APARTMENT - A LITTLE LATER

(ROSIE, VLAD, FRANKIE)

VLAD IS ON HIS COMPUTER, ROSIE LOOKS AROUND, NOTICING THE OLD AIR CONDITIONER, BIKES, ETC. SITTING AROUND:

ROSIE

I remember thinking all these old air conditioners and bikes were so cool when we were kids. Does he keep them so he can sell them?

VLAD

No, he keeps them "just in case."

ROSIE

Just in case of what?

VLAD

That's the fun part. Nobody knows.

ROSIE

Look, I manage twenty buildings for my dad, and I want you to be our I.T. guy. I want to do this for you. Why haven't you told your father yet?

VLAD

You know he's not going to take it well. Thanks for putting me on the spot.

ROSIE

Glad to help. If you want, we can go around the neighborhood and put up a bunch of missing persons signs for your balls.

VLAD

(COCKY) Trust me, I know where my balls are. (THEN) That sounded weird. Why you always busting my chops?

ROSIE

Because it's so easy. And fun.

VLAD

Rosie, I'm dealing with a cultural minefield, here. I'm not married, I've got no kids. In my dad's eyes, it's my immigrant obligation to live and work with him. I'm incubating right now. I'm a beautiful egg. I'm going to show him he can get along without me. A few more weeks. Then I'll take the job and bust right out of this egg into full blown adulthood.

ROSIE

Vlad, you're not an egg. You're an adult.

VLAD

No, no, in Latino families, adulthood starts at thirty-eight. Frankie's a teenager right now. (SHE SMILES)

Rosie, I'm so grateful for the job offer. And you should know, when I get busy on this thing, I'm gonna kill it for you. I'll make each building a "smart unit." Everything will be connected to wifi, controlled by phone: intercom, elevator, security...

HE SHOWS HER ON HIS COMPUTER. SHE'S IMPRESSED.

ROSIE

Ooo, look at college boy flashing his knowledge. You can do this cheap?

VLAD

That's one thing everybody knows about Vlad Caamaño. He's cheap. (THEN) I wish I had not said that.

ROSIE

Remember that time you tried to get your money back for your prescription allergy medicine?

VLAD

It had too many side-effects. You think it's normal to be sneezing and peeing at the same time?

THEY BOTH LAUGH, SHARING A MOMENT. FRANKIE ENTERS FROM HIS ROOM, IN HIS ROBE, SPOTTING ROSIE.

FRANKIE

Oh my god, look who's here. (KISSES
FINGERS) Ciao, Rosalita.

VLAD

It's noon. Do you own other clothes?

FRANKIE

(TO ROSIE) Sei bellissima.

ROSIE ROLLS HER EYES, IMPERVIOUS TO FRANKIE'S GAME.

ROSIE

Frankie, I need you to hear me on
this: You're not Italian.

VLAD

He wants to be Italian sooo bad. He
speaks Spanish with an Italian accent.

FRANKIE

(COCKY, ITALIAN ACCENT) Dame arroz,
con abichulas, por favor-e.

ROSIE

You're ridiculous.

FRANKIE

Whatever, look at you two lovebirds
out here chirping (MAKES CHIRP NOISE).

VLAD

Nobody's chirping, Frankie.

FRANKIE

Oh, I heard chirping. Rosie, help me out here. I keep telling him he's gotta be smoother with the ladies (POINTED TO VLAD) you know, in case he ever ends up hanging around with one he really likes.

ROSIE

I'm intrigued. What should he do?

FRANKIE

First of all, his lips are too dry. Look how wet my lips are, they shine.

VLAD

(UNCOMFORTABLE) They are really moist.

FRANKIE

You gotta lick those lips, get them nice and wet. They should be so juicy, that after you laugh, you gotta wipe your mouth (DEMONSTRATES).

IMPORTANT: FRANKIE WIPES HIS WET LIPS WITH HIS FINGERS, SMOOTHLY. HE WILL DO THIS THROUGHOUT THE SHOW (VLAD'S ACT).

ROSIE

Oh yeah, I definitely want to see Vlad try that.

VLAD

I don't think I'm built for that level of swag.

FRANKIE

Someday, Chief. I gotta go teach my salsa class. It's all real bangers in the two o'clock. (AS HE DANCES OUT)
Ciao, Rosie.

VLAD WATCHES HIS BROTHER DANCE OUT, IMPRESSED.

VLAD

That guy's a prince. I wish I could move like that.

ROSIE

Don't be like him. And I'm not just talking to you, I'm talking to anyone who can hear me.

VLAD

So, be honest, am I messing you up asking you for a few more weeks to get things settled with my dad?

ROSIE

No, it's no problem.

VLAD

(PUTS FEET UP) This is going exactly as planned. I got this.

HARD CUT TO:

ACT ONE

SCENE D

INT. EMPTY APARTMENT - SAME TIME
(JOSEPH, JULIO)

JULIO WORKS WITH A HAMMER ON THE WALL.

JOSEPH

So, Julio, what do you think about
Rosie offering Vlad that job?

JULIO CATCHES HIS FINGER WITH THE HAMMER, WINCES:

JULIO

Oh, the job. Si. He told me about the
job. Blah always tells me everything,
because I'm his father.

JOSEPH

He didn't talk to you, did he?

JULIO

No. But I'm not upset. (UPSET) He
don't want to talk to me? IT'S OKAY!
NO PROBLEM!

JOSEPH

Maybe put down the hammer.

JULIO

He wants to play with me? Ta bien.
Maybe we play. (BUSTS HOLE IN WALL
WITH HAMMER, OFF JOSEPH'S LOOK) Mira,
that wall needs to come down anyway.
Two, three, four, five. Pow!

END ACT ONE

ACT TWO

SCENE E

INT. BANK - DAY

(VLAD, JULIO, BANK EMPLOYEE)

JULIO AND VLAD ARE OPPOSITE A WHITE **BANK EMPLOYEE**. HE'S OBVIOUSLY RECEIVED SOME "CULTURAL SENSITIVITY" TRAINING.

BANK EMPLOYEE

(SUPER WHITE) Buenos dias, amigos!

VLAD

(ROLLS EYES) Gracias, por sentarse con nosotros. Estamos muy allegro para esta oportunidad.

THE BANK EMPLOYEE LOOKS AT VLAD, FORCING A SMILE.

BANK EMPLOYEE

I actually don't speak Spanish.

VLAD

Really? I never would have guessed...

(READS NAME TAG) Brad. (THEN) My father would like to open a bank account and get a debit card.

JULIO

I don't want to be here, but my son badly wants me to have the, uh...

(CAN'T FIND WORD, DOES DEBIT CARD SOUND EFFECT AND GESTURE) *shoop*.

VLAD

(OFF CONFUSION) My dad calls the bank card a shoop because that's the noise it makes when you swipe it.

JULIO

(SWIPE GESTURE) Shoop.

BANK EMPLOYEE

Fantastic. Sir, if I could get some basic information from you--

JULIO WAVES THE PAPER AWAY, NODDING TOWARD VLAD. VLAD STARTS FILLING OUT THE FORMS.

JULIO

No, no. Eso no es para mi. My son handles these things. (POINTED, TO VLAD) He does that because I worked very hard so he could go to college.

BANK REP

Oh, una universidad!

VLAD DOES HIS BEST THIRD WORLD SPANISH IMPRESSION:

VLAD

Jes sometimes our people go to school. We learn how to read and how to write, it's all very very exciting.

BANK REP

(TO JULIO) I bet if I talk directly to you, Sir, it will go quicker.

VLAD

That's a bad bet.

JULIO

(LONG WINDED) I came here in 1970.
Since that day, I've been very
suspicious of the United States.
Especially banks. Banks are malisimo.
But, there are great opportunities
here for my children. (SHOWS HANDS)
Look at my hands. Touch them. Touch my
hands. (BRAD RELUCTANTLY DOES) Eso son
manos de trabajo. Look at Blah's
hands. So smooth. It would be okay if
his hands got a little rougher, yes?
(TO VLAD) Before he starts his life?

VLAD

I filled it out. He just wants your
cash and I.D. to open the account.

JULIO

(DISMISSIVE NOISE) Ehh. He may have
the money.

JULIO STANDS, PULLS UP HIS PANT LEG, AND TAKES HIS WALLET OUT
FROM INSIDE HIS SOCK. VLAD WATCHES, INCREDULOUS:

JULIO (CONT'D)

Pero espate? Why does he need the
I.D.?

VLAD

Relax. He just needs to confirm it's
you. Check your birthday...

JULIO

(CONSIDERS IT) No. He can't see it.

VLAD

What?! Why not?!

JULIO

It's my money. Why do they need my information? They should give me their information. (TO BRAD) When's your birthday?

BANK EMPLOYEE

April fourth?

JULIO

He's lying.

VLAD

Pop, pero ben aca? What are you doing, man? They're not going to give you the card.

JULIO

Oo, you don't like it when you don't have the information, huh? It don't feel good, right? (THEN, STANDS) So I don't get the shoop. It doesn't matter because I have you. Unless you're leaving without telling me.

JULIO BACKS AWAY, GIVING THE "I'M WATCHING YOU" SIGN TO VLAD.

CUT TO:

ACT TWOSCENE HINT. FRANKIE'S SALSA STUDIO - NIGHT

(FRANKIE, VLAD, EXTRAS)

FRANKIE DANCES IN AN **AFRO-CUBAN DRUM CIRCLE**. HE FINISHES AND THE CLASS APPLAUDS. HE WIPES HIS SWEAT OFF WITH A TOWEL.

FRANKIE

Who wants to put my towel in the bin?

(TO WOMAN) You danced hard today, you get to do it (TOSSES IT TO HER).

VLAD ENTERS, LOOKING UPSET.

FRANKIE (CONT'D)

What up, Big Chief?

VLAD

He knows! I don't know how, but Pop knows about the job. I took him to get the debit card, and he sabotaged it.

FRANKIE

(IMPRESSED) He's a beast, Bro, he saw it coming. (VLAD LOOKS DEFEATED) So you don't take the job, big deal. You got a great life. You get to enjoy your brother and your dad. You know what time I woke up today? Eleven.

VLAD

Yeah, but you get to have your own salsa studio.

FRANKIE

First born. It's one of the perks.

VLAD

I love living with you guys. I wanna do it forever. I still gotta start living my life.

FRANKIE

And working with Rosie. This is your shot. Maybe some late nights in those empty apartments. You're alone, the A.C. breaks. It's hot, sweaty, clothes are peeling off, next thing you know... Prime-time. You get it in.

VLAD

Rosie's great, but I want to focus on my career right now.

FRANKIE

Yeah, that's why you're not doing it.

VLAD

Plus, you keep talking about sweat. You know I don't like anything wet, I wear flip flops in my own shower.

FRANKIE

Easy now, how can I help?

VLAD

Dad wants me to squirm. Maybe get angry and blow up, so he can call me ungrateful. Nope. I'm going the other way. I'm coming at him with love. I'm getting him that debit card. You know what's going to drive him crazy? He'll want to be mad, but it's gonna make him so happy. (THEN) You said you knew one of the bank managers?

FRANKIE

Yeah, Delilah. I know her in a biblical way. She'll be here at four, and it's not for class.

VLAD

You think if I got a copy of Pop's license, you could work some magic?

FRANKIE

Please. When I'm done, Dad will have ten debit cards. (THEN) So uptight. Let's dance some of that stress away.

HE PULLS VLAD TO THE DANCE FLOOR. VLAD STARTS TO MOVE. BADLY.

VLAD

How am I doing?

FRANKIE

I'm not totally sure we're related.

CUT TO:

ACT TWOSCENE J**INT. JULIO'S BASEMENT APARTMENT - THE NEXT MORNING**

(VLAD, JULIO, ANDREA, FRANKIE, JEROME)

VLAD, ANDREA AND FRANKIE ARE THERE. FRANKIE WEARS A TANK TOP.
JULIO ENTERS IN A "CARPE DIEM" T-SHIRT. EVERYONE CELEBRATES.

VLAD/ANDREA/FRANKIE

Pop!/El commandante!/El Fuerte!

JULIO

What are we celebrating? Did you
remember it's The General's birthday?

ANDREA

(BEAT) It's not his birthday.

JULIO

Muy bien. That was a test. (TO
FRANKIE/VLAD) You two did not pass.
(TO GENERAL) We will all be here June
11th to honor you.

VLAD

This is what we're celebrating. (PULLS
OUT DEBIT CARD) I pulled some strings.

FRANKIE

Yeah, so did I. (LAUGHS, WIPES
MOISTURE OFF LIPS)

JULIO

(MAD) But I didn't want-- I left the
bank-- (RE: CARD, SOFTENS) Wow, they
gave it to me.

JULIO (CONT'D)

They gave me the shoop. (EMOTIONAL) I never thought they'd give it to a man like me.

VLAD

Pop, you've been in this country for over forty years, you deserve it. What kind of son would I be if I didn't help my dad get a bank account?

JULIO

I have to call everyone I know.

VLAD

First we have to talk. Part of the reason I want you to have the card is so you can handle your day-to-day stuff without me--

JULIO

(ON PHONE) Blah, please, I don't have time for stories. (HOLDS UP CARD) I am a big guy now. (INTO PHONE) Diego, tengo una gran noticia. Tu sabe la cartica que hace... *shoop*.

VLAD

Dad, Rosie offered me a job.

JULIO

(ON CELL) Te llamo horita. (HANGS UP)
I know about it. Joseph told me.

VLAD

Yeah, I got that from your tantrum at the bank. I wish you had heard it from me. I just wanted to ease you into things before I talked to you.

JULIO

(SOFTENS) That's what you were doing?

VLAD

You know I always have your back no matter what.

KNOCK AT THE DOOR. FRANKIE OPENS IT, REVEALING JEROME.

JEROME

Frankie-crack, what's up, Playboy?

FRANKIE

What up, Big Pimp? Come on in. Can I get you something? Glass of Tropicana?

ANDREA

Frankie, 5-J. (SHAKES HEAD "NO") No le de Tropicana.

VLAD

Sorry, Jerome, my mom feels Tropicana is only for special guests. It's pure premium, uncut, you know?

ANDREA

Dale Sunny Delite.

JEROME

Sunny-D? Pass.

JEROME (CONT'D)

What I really need is some hot water.

Vlad never fixed it yesterday.

VLAD CLOSSES HIS EYES, GUILTY, IMMEDIATELY REMEMBERING:

VLAD

Damn, Jerome, I am so sorry.

JULIO'S MOOD SHIFTS - THIS IS NEWS TO HIM.

JULIO

You never fixed 5-J's hot water?!

JEROME

I had to cancel my date. Can't have a girl over without hot water.

ANDREA

He is right. In Dominican Republic we never had hot water. When I first came here and I took a hot bath... (IN SPANISH) *incredible*.

JEROME

Vlad, you owe me one freaky bath.

JEROME EXITS. JULIO TURNS TO VLAD, ANGRY.

JULIO

(IMITATES VLAD) I got it, Pop. I'll fix the bath. I always have your back no matter what.

JULIO DANCES, HANDS UP, SWAYING BACK AND FORTH MOCKING VLAD.

VLAD

Nobody was doing this (DOES DANCE).

JULIO

You spend time getting me the *shoop*,
but you forget 5-J. You know why?
Because you've already left. The shoop
isn't about me, it's about you, Mr.
United States of Technology. Mr. Apple
Pie Phone. Mal agradecido!

VLAD

I'm ungrateful?! Why? Because I don't
want to spend the rest of my life
fixing bathtubs?! I didn't get a
degree in computer science so I could
be a super in the South Bronx. I want
to be the next Steve Jobs.

JULIO

Only one problem! His last name was
Jobs and you can't even do one job
right. You're just going to be "Steve--
(GESTURES "THAT'S IT")

VLAD

It's not funny, Pop. Why is it me?!
Why am I the one who has to be right
by your side forever?!

JULIO

You don't have to! I thought you
wanted to! El pallaso soy yo.

VLAD STANDS TALL. HIS DAD STARES. THE TENSION IS THICK.

FRANKIE

You both gotta chill. Vlad, let's go to the park and do some pull-ups where all the single mothers can watch.

VLAD

I'm not going to the park, Frank!

ANDREA

Please, Vlad, just go to the park and do pull-ups. For me.

JULIO

All you care about is yourself.

VLAD

All you care about is this building and talking to a dead General.

VLAD NODS TO THE PICTURE OF THE GENERAL. ANDREA GASPS.

ANDREA

(TO GENERAL) Ay dios mio.

JULIO

I can't talk to you right now. I'm going to go use my *shoop*, and I don't need your help, "Mr. Junited Estates." "Mr. Ford Focus." "Mr. Jimmy Dean."

JULIO HEADS INTO HIS BEDROOM, ANGRY. BEAT, THEN:

FRANKIE

Damn, Dog, I think Pop just called you a sausage.

END ACT TWO

ACT THREE

SCENE K

INT. JULIO'S BASEMENT APARTMENT - DAY

(VLAD, JULIO, ANDREA, FRANKIE)

VLAD, FRANKIE AND ANDREA ARE THERE, WAITING FOR JULIO.

FRANKIE

What's he doing in there?

ANDREA

He said he was "getting ready."

VLAD

To use a debit card?

JULIO EMERGES IN HIS NICEST SUIT.

FRANKIE

Damn, Pop. You look good.

JULIO

Ati te gusta. You like it?

FRANKIE AND ANDREA NOD. VLAD SHAKES HIS HEAD.

VLAD

Dad, you're going to the supermarket,
you're not a mob boss on trial.

JULIO LOOKS UP, PRETENDING HE COULDN'T HEAR:

JULIO

Andrea, Frankie, is somebody talking?
I can't hear people who don't respect
everything I've done for them. (OFF
VLAD'S EYE ROLL) Okay, I am going to
go *shoop*.

(MORE)

JULIO (CONT'D)

And I would like the people who love
me to be there when I do. (THEN)

Andrea. Frankie. No fuimos!

JULIO TRIES TO MAKE A DRAMATIC EXIT, BUT IT'S DIMINISHED AS
HE HAS TO GET THROUGH ALL THE LOCKS FIRST. FINALLY, HE EXITS.
FRANKIE FOLLOWS. ANDREA TURNS BACK AND SITS WITH VLAD.

VLAD

Why does he have to be so hard on me?
The only thing Frankie does around
here is walk around half-naked.

FRANKIE POPS BACK IN.

FRANKIE

Sorry, I forgot my shirt. It's chilly
out there.

FRANKIE GRABS HIS SHIRT AND EXITS. ANDREA TURNS TO VLAD.

ANDREA

Your father is the best man I've ever
met, but this is why I moved out. The
more he loves someone, the more
exhausting he is to be around.

VLAD

Well, he must love me a hell of a lot.

ANDREA

(SMILES) He loves you the most. He
always has. He's just scared. He can't
think of being without you. You are
more than just his son, Vlad, you're
his best friend. (OFF NOD) Es tu vida.

(MORE)

ANDREA (CONT'D)

And if you have your dream, just
remember: your family loves you, and
understands.

VLAD

You really think Dad will be okay with
me doing my own thing?

ANDREA

No, I was talking about me. Your
father will never understand.

VLAD'S MOM PUTS AN ARM AROUND HIM AS WE--

CUT TO:

ACT THREE

SCENE 1

INT. - EMPTY APARTMENT - A LITTLE LATER

(VLAD, ROSIE)

VLAD, IN GOGGLES, PAINTS DRYWALL. HE'S WEARING A BLACK GARBAGE BAG AS A SMOCK. ROSIE ENTERS, JUDGING HIS OUTFIT.

ROSIE

Are you wearing a black garbage bag?

VLAD

No, no, this is a smock.

ROSIE

It's really not. And what's with the winter gloves?

VLAD

I'm not taking any chances. Have you seen my dad's hands? They're like sandpaper. No classy woman like yourself wants a massage from someone with sandpaper hands.

ROSIE

You offering massages now, Vlad?

VLAD

No, I mean, did that offend you?

ROSIE

Are you blushing?

VLAD

No, it's just really hot in this bag.

ROSIE

So, I heard about the family drama.
Still want the job?

VLAD

Yes. (THEN) No. (THEN) I don't know.
Why'd you do this to me?

ROSIE

Because, I'm your friend.

VLAD

You're a horrible friend. How dare you
offer me an opportunity that can
change the course of my life?

ROSIE

(BOTH LAUGH, THEN) You can't take care
of your dad forever.

VLAD

Yeah, but the guy gives everything for
me. Eventually my life has to start,
but how do I know when the time is
right?

ROSIE

You'll know. Promise me one thing. It
can't be about what he wants, it has
to be about what you want.

VLAD

I promise.

ROSIE

(RE: COFFEE CUP) Where should I throw
this out?

VLAD

Just toss it in the garbage (SHE TUCKS
IT INTO HIS TRASH BAG/COLLAR). You
think you're funny, don't you?

SHE NODS AND SMILES.

CUT TO:

ACT THREESCENE MINT. ROSARIO'S GROCERY STORE - DAY

(VLAD, JULIO, ANDREA, FRANKIE, JEROME, CASHIER, EXTRAS)

JULIO, FRANKIE AND ANDREA ENTER. THE PLACE IS PACKED WITH PEOPLE FROM THE NEIGHBORHOOD, INCLUDING JEROME FROM 5-J. THEY ALL IMMEDIATELY SPOT JULIO AND APPLAUD HIS ENTRANCE, CHEERING HIM ON IN SPANISH. JULIO WAVES LIKE A POLITICIAN.

JULIO

Rosario! Maria! Carlos! Come estan!

FRANKIE WATCHES, IMPRESSED, AS JULIO HIGH-FIVES SOME FRIENDS.

FRANKIE

Damn, people really came out of the
woodwork for you.

JULIO

They have come because I have the
shoop.

JEROME SHAKES HIS HEAD, WATCHING. HE LEANS TO FRANKIE.

JEROME

You Latinos know how to party. Dancing
and celebrating every damn thing.

FRANKIE

Let's go give that card a workout.

ANDREA

Julio. (LOOKS AROUND, IT'S A SECRET)

Tropicana, two for five dollars.

ANDREA NODS, LETTING JULIO KNOW IT'S OKAY TO USE HER "INSIDE"
INFORMATION. THEN, VLAD ENTERS.

VLAD

Yo, Pop.

JULIO

(GUARDED) Mira, look who decided to join us. Are you surprised I could find the market without your "help?"

FRANKIE

We did make, like, three wrong turns.

JULIO

Quiet, Frank. Muchacho el diablo.

VLAD

Can we talk for a second?

JULIO CONSIDERS, THEN, TO THE ASSEMBLED PATRONS:

JULIO

Thank you, everybody, for coming. Today is a big day for me and my familia. First, I am going to talk to my son, and then I will use the *shoop*.

VLAD LEADS HIS DAD ASIDE.

VLAD

I talked to Rosie... I told her I'm not taking that job.

JULIO

(BEAT) Don't say "no" for me.

VLAD

I didn't. I made a promise I wouldn't. I said "no" for me... I love what we've got too much.

(MORE)

VLAD (CONT'D)

Besides, Rosie only offered it to me because she has a crush on me.

JULIO

She does?

VLAD

She doesn't know it yet, but she does. So, I guess it's you and me.

JULIO

Blah, I knew you would do the right thing. That's why I called Joseph and said you'd take the job.

VLAD

You did? For real?!

JULIO NODS, SMILES. THEY HUG. IT'S A REAL MOMENT.

VLAD (CONT'D)

You're really gonna be okay with me not working for you?

JULIO

(LAUGHS) No, no, no. I told Joseph you'll work nights for him. You still work with me. Everyday nine to seven.

VLAD

What time does the other job start?

JULIO

Seven fifteen. You happy? Now you're Steve Two-Jobs.

VLAD

I can make that work.

JULIO

(SINCERE) You're the most important thing to me, Blah. (THEN) I mean, your mother and your brother are crazy.

VLAD

I know. (THEN) Let's go do the shoop. (THEY HEAD BACK) What do you want to buy, Pop?

JULIO

(LOOKS AT ANDREA, THEN) Tropicana, two for five dollar.

ANDREA

(TO JULIO) We're making love tonight.

JULIO GETS HIS TROPICANA AND MOVES BEHIND A CUSTOMER IN LINE.

JULIO

Pero Blah, why I have to wait in line?
I have the *shoop*.

VLAD

Dad it's a debit card, not a flash pass at an amusement park.

JULIO AND VLAD STEP FORWARD. IT'S HIS BIG MOMENT. THE **CASHIER**, A GRUMPY BLACK WOMAN, RINGS HIM UP.

GRUMPY CASHIER

Five forty-nine, sir.

FRANKIE

Before you pay, lemme get a picture.

SHE ROLLS HER EYES. FRANKIE TAKES THE PHOTO AS JULIO SWIPES HIS DEBIT CARD. A BEAT. HE READS:

JULIO

Approved!

HE HOLDS UP HIS HANDS, VICTORIOUS. EVERYONE APPLAUDS.

GRUMPY CASHIER

You want cash back?

JULIO

(DOESN'T UNDERSTAND) Que? Cash back?

GRUMPY CASHIER

(ANNOYED) Yes. Do you want cash back?

JULIO

(PANICKING) Blah, ven aca.

VLAD

Pop, relax. She's just offering you your own money.

JULIO

I don't want no problems. Yo te lo dije que esto me iba traer problema!

JULIO TURNS UP TO THE SECURITY CAMERA, ADDRESSING THE CAMERA.

JULIO (CONT'D)

My name is Julio Caamaño and I am not taking money from this woman.

VLAD

Calm down. Easy now.

JULIO

I know what happens in these situations. Your uncle got deported.

VLAD

He was selling illegal firearms.

JULIO

Blah, what are you doing?! (TO
SECURITY CAM) I did not sell any
firearms and I did not take her money.

VLAD

You're over-reacting.

JULIO NODS. BEAT. HE TURNS TO THE SECURITY CAMERA AND BEGINS
SINGING THE NATIONAL ANTHEM.

JULIO

Oh say can you see... (BEAT) Mira, no
problem over here, OKAY?!

VLAD

(TO CASHIER) I don't think we need
cash back.

AS VLAD AND HIS FAMILY EXIT THE STORE, WE--

END ACT THREE

TAG

INT. VLAD'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

(JULIO, VLAD)

VLAD IS ASLEEP. THEN, A POUNDING ON HIS DOOR. HE SITS UP, STARTLED, REVEALING HE'S WEARING AN EYE-MASK.

JULIO (O.S.)

Blah! Ta dulmiendo? Are you sleeping?

VLAD REMOVES HIS EYE-MASK.

VLAD

Not anymore. What's up?

JULIO (O.S.)

Nothing. Just making sure you're okay.

(THEN) Love you, Mijo.

VLAD SMILES, SHAKING HIS HEAD--

VLAD

Love you too, Pop.

--AND GOES BACK TO BED.

VLAD (CONT'D)

(SMILES, RESIGNED) I'm never going to
leave this guy.

THE END.